

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 189801
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 ICA-11
SIG-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /107 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RIMARCUS:LAR
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP
AF/C:LDJUNIOR
HA/HR:RMAXIM
USICA/AF:RGIBBONS

-----105297 271850Z /64

P R 271831Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189801

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PEPR, G., DM

SUBJECT: ATTACKS ON BENINESE COMMUNITY

REF: LIBREVILLE 2022 (NOTAL), 2038

1. JULY 26 WASHINGTON POST CARRIED BRIEF ITEM ON "BLOODY
STREET...BATTLES BETWEEN GABONESE AND IMMIGRANTS FROM
BENIN" IN LIBREVILLE AND PORT GENTIL. AFP AND REUTERS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 189801

HAD LONGER ARTICLES, NOT REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS, CONCERN-
ING BONGO'S IRE AT KEREKOU'S CHARGES AND POSSIBLE REPATRIA-
TION OF BENINESE COMMUNITY.

2. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE FOR DEPT SPOKESMAN TO BE
USED ON "IF ASKED" BASIS:

Q: CAN THE DEPT CONFIRM REPORTS OF GABONESE ATTACKS ON THE BENINESE COMMUNITY?

A: PUBLISHED REPORTS IN LIBREVILLE CONFIRM THE ATTACKS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO EXPEL THE BENINESE.

Q: WOULD THE DEPARTMENT COMMENT ON THE REPORTED ATTACKS ON BENINESE IN GABON?

A: ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEM IS ONE BETWEEN GABON AND BENIN, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS SUCH AS MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN GABON. WE WOULD HOPE THAT COUNTRIES WOULD NOT PENALIZE INDIVIDUAL NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THEY HAVE DIFFERENCES.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: YOU SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIAL TO EXPRESS OUR STRONG CONCERN ABOUT THE ATTACKS ON EMBASSY AND USICA PERSONNEL.

4. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO LECTURE THE GABONESE ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF RESIDENTS IN THEIR COUNTRY, YOU SHOULD, AT THE FIRST APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF BENINESE EXPATRIATES. YOU MAY EXPAND ON THIS THEME BY NOTING THAT A SUDDEN AND MASS EXPULSION OF THE BENINESE COMMUNITY COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT IN WASHINGTON, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 189801

HAVING POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH GABON.

5. YOU MAY, AT YOUR DISCRETION, STATE THAT THE GOG DECISION TO EXPEL THE BENINESE SEEMS TO BE IN SHARP CONTRAST TO PRESIDENT BONGO'S STATESMANLIKE INTERVENTIONS ON BEHALF OF UGANDAN DISSIDENTS AND THE WESTERN JOURNALISTS LAST YEAR. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, EXPATRIATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE189801
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RIMARCUS:LAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780308-0867
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780713/aaaaakub.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a28d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LIBREVILLE 2022
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1865125
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTACKS ON BENINESE COMMUNITY
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PEPR, GB, DM
To: LIBREVILLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a28d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014